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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/015,403	12/12/2001	Katsunobu Iguchi	S004-4500	5049

7590 09/23/2003

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EXAMINER

JACKSON, ANDRE L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3677

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/015,403	IGUCHI ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Andre' L. Jackson	3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appars on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 13-45 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 20-45 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 13 and 14 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 15-19 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on 13 June 2003 is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) Z .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on December 28, 2000. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the priority document #2000-400162 as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USPN 1,002,922 to Lederer. Lederer discloses a bracelet having a hinge assembly comprising a first hinge member (4); a second hinge member (3) mounted to undergo rotational movement between a locked state and an unlocked state relative to the first hinge member; a biasing member (23) connecting the second hinge member to the first hinge member and biasing the second hinge member in a direction of rotation toward the unlocked state of the second hinge member; a latch pin (9,9) mounted on the second hinge member; and a cavity (12) formed in the first hinge member for receiving therein the latch pin to place the second hinge member in the locked state.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 20-45 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art made of record does not disclose or suggest the combination of limitations set forth in applicant's claims. In particular, the prior art does not disclose or suggest a hinge assembly for an electronic apparatus comprising a first hinge member having a peripheral surface, a slot formed in the peripheral surface, a cavity formed in the peripheral surface and disposed in communication with the slot. A second hinge member having a peripheral surface and a bore having an open end and formed in the peripheral surface. A latch pin is provided and is movably mounted in the bore of the second hinge member, where a second biasing member is disposed in the bore of the second hinge member for biasing an end portion of the pin into the cavity of the first hinge member, and a push mechanism is disposed in the slot of the first hinge member to push the end portion of the latch pin out of the cavity of the first hinge member, thus allowing the assembly to translate from a locked position to an unlocked position. None of the prior art references made of record disclose or suggest the structural limitations as set forth in applicant's claims.

Response to Applicant's Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed in Amendment A filed on June 13, 2003 has been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's remarks on page 22, third paragraph of the above amendment assert that the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the combination of limitations as recited in new claims 13-45. Further, on page 24, second paragraph, applicant points out that that the prior art reference of Lederer does not recite a biasing member connecting a first hinge member to a second member and the biasing member is normally urged in an unlocked rotational direction relative to the hinge members as claimed. Applicant's statements are found not to be persuasive and the Examiner believes Lederer meets all of the structural limitations set forth in claims 13 and 14. Specifically, Lederer discloses a bracelet having opposing hinge blocks (equatable to applicant's first and second hinge members) interconnected via a pivot pin and a torsion spring member which has opposite extending spring arms that conventionally urge the hinge blocks out of alignment with one another as shown in Figs. 2 and 6, as a result, defining an unlocked state of the bracelet. From the above interpretation of Lederer given by the Examiner, claims 13 and 14 are rejected in view of Lederer. Claims 15-19 are objected to and claims 20-45 are allowed over the prior art.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

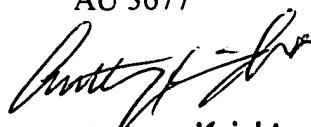
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andre' L. Jackson whose telephone number is (703) 605-4276. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri. (10 am - 6 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on (703) 308-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1018.

André L. Jackson
Patent Examiner
AU 3677

ALJ



Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600